

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ELF DELEGATION VISITS DAMASCUS

1. MARCH 18 ISSUE AL-BAATH REPORTED VISIT TO DAMASCUS OF ERITREAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DELEGATION NOW TOURING SEVERAL MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. DELEGATION CONSISTS OF MUHAMMAD SALIH HAMAD OF THE ERC FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICE AND AHMAD NASSER MUHAMMAD OF ERC MILITARY BUREAU. DURING MEETING WITH BAATH PARTY REPRESENTATIVES, ALSO ATTENDED BY ELF REP IN DAMASCUS ALI MUHAMMAD SALIH, DELEGATION EXPLAINED RECENT HISTORY OF ERITREAN-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AND STATED ELF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY AND MATERIEL SUPPORT. DELEGATION STRESSED NEED FOR ERITREAN-ARAB SOLIDARITY AND ARAB RECOGNITION STRATEGIC POSITION ERITREA VIS-A-VIS RED SEA/BAB AL-MANDEB. NASSER MUHAMMAD QUOTED AS SAYING ISRAEL HAS BEEN SENDING SHIPS WITH WEAPONS AND AMMO FOR ETHIOPIAN ARMY.

2. AT CONCLUSION, DELEGATION PROPOSED THREE-POINT SOLUTION TO ERITREAN-ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM: (A) RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ERITREAN PEOPLE; (B) SETTLING PROBLEM OF NATIONALITIES IN ETHIOPIA; (C) AGRICULTURAL
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AND ECONOMIC REFORMS TO SERVE BOTH ERITREAN AND

ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE.

3. MARCH 20 ISSUE AL-BAATH REPORTED ELF CAPTURE CITY
UM HAJR. CLAIMED GOVERNMENT GARRISON SURRENDERED
WITH ITS EQUIPMENT TO REBEL FORCES.
MURPHY

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